ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES

OF THE

## FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

## PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,

PLEASANT HILL, DALLAS CO., ALA.,

**On the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th Oct., 1875.**

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
BARRETT & BROWN, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1875.

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*TO REPORT NEXT YEAR.*

# ASSOCIATIONAL BOARD.

(See page 7 of Minutes.)

**Located at Carlowville, Dallas County, Ala.**

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ELD. W. C. CLEVELAND, D. D., Chairman.

J. H. Williamson, J. Z. Hearst,
S. W. Lide, Joseph Swink.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

*1st District*—H. W. Caffey, D. B. Edwards.
*2d District*—Eld. M. Bishop, Eld. E. F. Baber.
*3d District*—Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D., J. M. Falkner.
*4th District*—Eld. B. H. Crumpton, J. C. Fonville.

S. S. COMMITTEE.

*1st District*—D. B. Edwards.
*2d District*—R. M. Burt.
*3d District*—G. W. Thomas.
*4th District*—J. N. Thigpen.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Eld. E. F. Baber, Eld. G. W. McQueen,
Dr. J. H. Williamson, Jeff. Harris, A. Edwards.

TO PREACH THE INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

Eld. J. W. Orme.
*Alternate*—Eld. Jeff. Falkner.

TO PREACH THE MISSIONARY SERMON.

Eld. W. C. Cleveland, D. D.
*Alternate*—Eld. M. Bishop.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

## *ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.*

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The delegates to the Association, pursuant to adjournment, met with the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Dallas county, Friday, October 8, 1875.

Elder E. F. Baber preached the introductory sermon, from Matthew, 15: 9.

After the usual recess of 45 minutes, the delegates again met, and after singing the 565th hymn and prayer by Elder Isaac T. Tichenor, Elder David Lee, as Moderator, called the Association to order, and brother B. B. Davis was requested to act as clerk.

Elder E. F. Baber, Dr. H. W. Caffey and Elder G. W. McQueen, then, by request, read the letters from the churches and the delegates names were enrolled, viz:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Centre Ridge.—Elder W. C. Cleveland, D. D., S. W. Lide, J. H. Williamson.

Town Creek.—W. W. Hardy, D. B. Edwards, W. R. Hardy.

Bethany.—H. W. Caffey, R. P. Rives, N. L. Brooks.

Sister Springs.—Not represented.

Pleasant Hill.—T. M. Bailey, *Chas. Cobb, U. J. Crumpton.

Cedar Creek.—J. J. Vaughan, J. B. Ezell, Daniel Davis.

Shiloh.—William Johnson, Jere. Johnson, J. M. Lide.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Hopewell.—Elder D. Lee, O. A. Coleman, E. C. Plumb.

Ash Creek.—A. Edwards, W. T. Relfe, A. K. Gordon.

Hayneville.—Elder E. F. Baber.

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*Denotes Absentees.

Steep Creek.—W. P. Bullock, W. R. Relfe, Ransom Meadows.

Bethel.—Elder M. Bishop, John Roberson, J. L. Burt.

Good Hope.—John Peagler.

Mount Gilead.—*George H. Traylor, *D. Moore, H. Walker Edwards.

Benton.—Not represented.

Lowndesboro.—Not represented.

New Bethel.—J. A. Crow, W. W. Pruitt.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Autauguville.—*James Nunn, *Berry Hall, O. W. Sherrer.

1st Montgomery.—B. B. Davis, Elder D. W. Gwin,* John Bullock.

Adams street Montgomery.—Not represented.

Liberty.—Not represented.

Union.—*John W. Holloway, *John A. Stringer, William B. Bowden.

Mount Lebanon.—E. P. Johnson, *J. W. Orme, *George Long.

Pine Level.—E. J. Harris, *G. G. Miles, John A. Frazer.

Midway.—Not represented.

Unity.—B. B. Davis.

Elam.—*William G. Worrel, Z. Jackson, *David Jones.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Greenville.—Elder E. F. Baber, J. A. Graham.

Philadelphia.—Not represented.

Antioch.—Letter. No delegates.

Damascus.—*Elder W. C. Avant, *Elder W. J. Kierce, E. Weever.

Hickory Grove.—Not represented.

Macedonia.—Letter. No delegates.

New Ebenezer.—Not represented.

After which, an election was held, which resulted in the re-election of the officers of last year, viz: Elder D. Lee, Moderator; B. B. Davis, Clerk; S. W. Lide, Treasurer.

Brother Lee, in accepting the position, made some remarks on the great importance of the business coming before the Association at its present session. He has acted as Moderator for thirty years, and has, with one exception, attended forty-four consecutive sessions of the body.

The Moderator then appointed the following standing committees:

* Denotes Absentees.

*On Religious Exercises.*—Pastor and Deacons of Pleasant Hill Church, together with J. L. Burt, John A. Frazer, W. B. Bowden.

*On Missions,* (to report next year).—E. F. Baber, G. W. McQueen, Dr. J. H. Williamson, Jeff. Harris, A. Edwards.

*On Documents.*—M. Bishop, W. W. Hardy, Z. Jackson, John Peagler, O. W. Sherrer.

*On Finance.*—D. B. Edwards, W. W. Pruitt, U. J. Crumpton.

*Auditing Committee.*—Jere. Johnson, A. K. Gordon, R. Meadows.

*On the State of Religion in the Churches.*—Elder D. W. Gwin, H. W. Edwards, W. R. Relfe, W. R. Hardy, John Roberson.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to report on *Centennial,* to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

Committee: Brethren W. C. Cleveland, T. M. Bailey, E. F. Baber.

On motion, agreed that the committee on *Sunday Schools* be the standing committee for this session, with the addition of brethren G. W. McQueen and H. W. Caffey supplying the places of absentees.

On motion, resolved to appoint a committee on the "Alabama Baptist," to report during the session.

Committee: Brethren Bailey, Caffey and Williamson.

On the call for correspondence from other bodies, the following brethren were received as representatives:

From Salem Association.—Brother John B. Garrard.

" Zion " —Brother W. H. Cheatham.

" Pine Barren Association.—Elder B. H. Crumpton, John Posey, G. W. Albritton, C. W. Hare, F. Watson, C. C. Jones.

Tuskegee Association.—Elder I. T. Tichenor.

State Educational Board.—Elder D. W. Gwin.

State Mission Board.—Elder T. M. Bailey.

Cahaba Association.—James Brazer, Elder M. T. Sumner.

Judson Female Institute.—Elder M. T. Sumner.

On motion, the Moderator was requested to appoint ten delegates to the State Convention, to meet in the City of Montgomery, on Thursday before the third Sabbath in July.

Committee: W. C. Cleveland, H. W. Caffey, J. J. Vaughan, J. L. Burt, M. Bishop, J. W. Orme, E. F. Baber, G. W. McQueen, W. C. Avant, T. J. Miles.

On motion, resolved that we meet at 9 o'clock in the morning, and, after half hour's devotional exercises, continue the session until 1 o'clock, adjourn for one hour and meeting at 2 o'clock, continue in session until 4½ o'clock.

On motion, agreed that the vacancy in the committee on Reforms, be filled by the appointment of brother John A. Frazer.

It was further resolved, that the Moderator and Clerk prepare an order of business, report during this session, and have the same published with the minutes hereafter.

Adjourned with prayer by brother Caffey.

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(Preaching at 7½ o'clock, p. m., by brother B. H. Crumpton, from Romans 16, first clause of 20th verse.)

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SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

The Association convened, and after half hour's devotional exercises, conducted by brother McQueen, the minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The clerk then read the rules of order.

On motion, resolved that a committee of three brethren, none ministers, be appointed to nominate those who are to preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons at the next session.

Committee: U. J. Crumpton, John A. Frazer, W. B. Borden.

The hour for the consideration of the report of the Committee on Centennial having arrived, they made their report, (Appendix A.) which, after reading and remarks by brethren Cleveland, Sumner, Tichenor, Bailey, Crumpton, Baber and Gwin, was laid on the table to be made the order of business for to-morrow at 2½ o'clock.

The Committee on Missions made their report, (Appendix B.) which was read and laid on the table.

The Associational Board of Missions reported, pending the discussion of which the following resolution was presented:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider and report on the propriety and practicability of uniting the Associational Board with the State Board, and report on Monday at 10 o'clock.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made their re-

port, which was adopted: Mass meeting to-night in the interest of missions, to be addressed by Elder M. T. Sumner, D. D., and others. Prayer meeting on Sabbath morning at 9½ o'clock, to be conducted by brother B. B. Davis. Preaching at 11 o'clock in the Baptist church—Missionary sermon by Elder D. W. Gwin, D. D.; and at the same hour at the Presbyterian church by Elder I. T. Tichnor, D. D. At 2½ o'clock mass meeting in the interest of the Centennial movement, to be addressed by Elder D. W. Gwin and others; and at 7½ o'clock, at night, sermon by Elder M. Bishop.

When, the hour having arrived, adjourned with prayer by brother Sumner.

AFTERNOON SESSION, SATURDAY.

The Association reassembled, and, after singing, the Committee on Reforms presented as their report sundry amendments and additions to the Constitution, which were read and severally discussed and adopted, and the report (Appendix D.) was then unanimously adopted as a whole; and on motion,

Resolved, That the churches be requested to act thereupon and instruct their delegates, sending their concurrence or objection to the next session of the Association.

The Committee on the "Alabama Baptist" reported, (Appendix E.) which was adopted.

The Committee on Church History, for the first district, reported progress, and after appointing Elder W. C. Cleveland chairman, was continued. On motion,

Resolved, That a like committee, of which Elder D. Lee should be chairman, be appointed to prepare a history of the churches of the second district.

Committee: D. Lee, A. Edwards, E. F. Baber, G. W. McQueen, R. M. Burt, John Peagler, M. Walker Edwards, J. C. Hill, P. N. Cilley, W. W. Pruitt.

The Committee on Documents made their report, which, on motion, was recommitted with instructions to report on the state of religion in the churches; and it was then

Resolved, That the Committee on the State of Religion in the Churches be discharged, and that, hereafter, said committee be omitted from the list of standing committees.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the prosperity attending

the sessions of Howard College and the Judson Female Institute, at Marion, and cordially commend these institutions to the patronage of the public.

On motion, agreed that when we adjourn, it be to meet with Hopewell church, Mount Willing, Lowndes county, on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1876.

Adjourned, with prayer by brother Cleveland, until 7½ o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION, SATURDAY.

After singing and prayer by Elder Tichenor, on motion, the report of the Committee on Missions (Appendix B.) was taken from the table and ably discussed by brethren Sumner and Bailey, and in response to their appeals a collection was taken up, amounting to $27 60 in cash, and pledges as follows, amounting to $116 50, made, viz: A. Edwards $2, paid; F. P. Webster $2, paid; E. M. Rice $1, paid; W. P. Bullock $2, paid; —— Relfe $2, paid; Mrs. NeSmith $5; Mrs. M. M. Pruett $5; W. R. Relfe $5; Town Creek church $10; Pleasant Hill church $10; Ash Creek church $10; Steep Creek church $10; Bethel church $20; O. W. Sherrer $5; E. J. Harris $5; John A. Frazer $5; Ezra C. Plum $5; O. A. Coleman $5; Miss Alice Gordon (Ash Creek) $5; W. D. Relfe $2 50; when, on motion, the report was adopted and the convention adjourned, with prayer by Elder M. Bishop.

SABBATH MORNING.

After the prayer meeting, the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder D. W. Gwin, from John 17: 18, after which a collection was made for missions, which amounted to $16 85.

SABBATH AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order, after singing and prayer, and it being the regular order, the consideration of the report of the Committee on Centennial was resumed, and after addresses by brethren Bailey and Tichenor adjourned, with prayer by brother Sumner.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association again met, and after the usual devotional exercises the minutes of the preceding day were read and adopted. On motion,

Resolved, That the collection of yesterday, except the amount otherwise directed, be appropriated to foreign missions, and also that it and all other funds designed for said Board, should be turned over to Elder T. M. Bailey, as the representative, for transmission.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made their report, (Appendix I.) which was adopted.

The committee to report an Order of Business, made their report, (Appendix J.) which was adopted. See third page of cover.

The Treasurer's report (Appendix K.) was read and referred to Auditing committee, as was also the report of the Finance committee (Appendix F.)

The Committee on Documents reported, (Appendix H.) which was adopted. On motion,

Resolved, That the unappropriated fund for "General Associational purposes," be added to the Minute fund, and that the Clerk have a sufficient number of the minutes printed and distributed, reserving enough from the fund to pay the postage.

Resolved, That we commend the Educational Board in its important work of aiding indigent ministerial students at Howard College, and recommend our churches to take up a collection at as early a day as possible, to be forwarded to the President of the Board, at Montgomery, (Elder D. W. Gwin, D. D.)

An opportunity being given, the following pledges were made for the Board, viz: Town Creek church $5; W. P. Bullock $5; J. S. Catts $5, paid; Mrs. Catts $5, paid; Elder D. Lee $1, paid; W. W. Pruett $5, paid; O. W. Sherrer $1, paid.

The committee to report on the propriety and practicability of uniting the State and Associational Boards, presented the following:

Resolved, That a Board with the powers of the Executive Board, to be located at Carlowville, consisting of five brethren, be appointed, who are instructed to co-operate with the State Mission Board in the prosecution of the Associational missions.

Which was adopted and the following appointed as the committee: W. C. Cleveland, chairman; J. H. Williamson, J. Z. Hearst, S. W. Lide, Joseph Swink.

The report of the Committee on Centennial was taken from the table and adopted, and the following committee appointed in accordance therewith: 1st district, H. W.

Caffey, D. B. Edwards; 2d district, Elders M. Bishop and E. F. Baber; 3d district, Elder D. W. Gwin and J. M. Falkner; 4th district, Elder B. H. Crumpton and J. C. Fonville.

The committee to nominate the preachers for the next Association, reported as follows: To preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. W. Orme; alternate Elder J. Falkner. Missionary Sermon, Elder W. C. Cleveland; alternate, Elder M. Bishop. On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of the Pleasant Hill church, to the Presbyterian church for the use of their house of worship on Sabbath morning, and the citizens generally, for the cordial hospitality extended to us during our present session.

The Moderator announced the following Sabbath School Committee for the ensuing year: 1st district, D. B. Edwards. 2d district, R. M. Burt. 3d district, G. W. Thomas. 4th district, J. M. Thigpen. On motion,

Resolved, That this Association heartily approve of the appointment of Elder W. H. McIntosh, D. D., as Secretary of the Home Mission Board, and earnestly urge upon the brethren to sustain him in his work by their prayers and contributions.

Brother Cleveland, in behalf of some of the brethren present, presented to the Moderator a copy of the "The Book of Psalms," accompanying the gift with suitable remarks to which brother Lee, in accepting, replied with words of thanks and Christian encouragement, and reviewing some facts connected with the past history of the Association, extended a cordial invitation to the delegates to partake of his hospitality at the coming session of the Association.

The Convention then closed its most harmonious session with singing, extending the right hand of fellowship, and prayer by Elder David Lee.

DAVID LEE, Moderator.

BENJAMIN B. DAVIS, Clerk.

# APPENDIX.

## A.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CENTENNIAL.

Resolved, That we heartily sympathize with the effort now being made by the denomination in the State, for the endowment of Howard College. And we earnestly urge the churches to co-operate with the Centennial Committee appointed by the convention at Huntsville.

Resolved, That we appoint a Centennial Committee, consisting of two from each district, of which the Association committeeman appointed by the Central Committee shall be chairman.

Resolved, That a mass meeting be held to-morrow, at 2½ o'clock, in the interests of the Centennial, to be addressed by brother Gwin and others, after which a collection shall be made for the endowment of Howard College.

W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman.

## B.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The great felt want among Christians, in these times of financial trial, is the spirit, the spirit of missions, the same spirit that moved the Saviour to come to earth and offer up himself, his whole self, his soul self, for us; that spirit which constrained Paul to hazard all worldly good for the glory of the Master and the eternal welfare of man every where. Having this mind of Christ, and which was the spirit of early Christians, the Macedonian cry so often wafted to our ears would be heard and heeded, by sending contributions, though it be from our deep poverty. Five cents from each of the 75,000 Baptists in the State, would be about three times the amount of the contributions of last year for foreign missions. Can not, and will not, each church in our Association adopt the mite-box system recommended by B., and keep the missionaries at work who are already in the field, and send others who are anxious to enter the already opened doors, and made wide in the providence of God for the heralds of the Cross?

Many churches among the Heathen are self-sustaining, and are sending the good news of Salvation still beyond. The report of the last Convention says one of the largest Baptist churches in the world is in Asia.

Let us not be unmindful of our interest in the Red man's country, where we have 19 churches and 1915 members in fellowship, who send up their praises to our God for the missionary spirit in us that carried the gospel to them while in their blindness and death.

Our work at home is languishing, and the spirit of missions in many of the churches is declining. We can not at this time afford to sustain such a loss, while the tide of religious and political corruption is pouring in from Europe, and false religions are teaming in upon us from the East. The 75,000 Baptist children of fathers who suffered, labored, prayed, paid for the soul-freedom we have and do now enjoy, demand that we "ask for the spirit" of our self-sacrificing fathers—shake off our lethargy, put on the whole armor of God and begin the work anew, and send out missionaries all over this land and meet error with a pure tide of gospel truth. We must wring fire and burn up error, sink wells and exhaust all the water of the animus of truth and furnish them plentifully with wells of the water of life, whereof if a man drink he shall never thirst.

The missionary cause, at home and abroad especially, at this time, comes to every Baptist, claiming his or her sympathies, prayers and money.

Respectfully submitted,

MATT. BISHOP, Chairman.

## C.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Association, brother G. W. McQueen was appointed to labor with the churches at Elim, Autaugaville, Lowndesboro and Elim in Montgomery county, and under appointment of your committee brother John Prestridge began work with the church at Shiloh in January, 1875. These brethren have labored faithfully.

*Statistics of Labor as Reported.*—Miles traveled 2,439; Sermons delivered 145; Religious visits 144; Baptized 5; Received by letter 2; Prayer meetings attended 12; Addresses made 6, Baptized in connection with labor 16; Sabbath schools conducted 10.

The number of churches which have no pastors is increasing. Your committee would respectfully, but earnestly, press upon the Association the imperative necessity of devising some means by which ministers may be induced to occupy the destitute places.

W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman.

## D.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFORMS.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. 2. This Association shall be composed of Representatives from the Churches in Union. Each Church shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members, above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the delegates from any church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by churches.

Art. 3. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator, a Clerk and a Treasurer. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, and continue in office until their successors are chosen. The Moderator, with concurrence of the Executive Board, shall have power to call a meeting at any time or place, which meeting, when convened, shall have all the powers of a regular annual meeting.

Art. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies, in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority, except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches; and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and other means in accordance with that gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

Art. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union on their sending up their delegates to any meeting, with a petition; and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

Art. 6. This Association shall annually elect five brethren as an Executive Board, who shall superintend the work of missions within the bounds of this Association, and shall transact all unfinished business, subject to the ratification of the Association, to which they shall make yearly report.

Art. 7. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, contributions for benevolent purposes, statistics of the Sabbath school, and all other information which the churches may deem of importance, which letters shall be referred to a committee on credentials.

Art. 8. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches ; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over, through the committee on finance, to the treasurer. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

Art. 9. This Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

Art. 10. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them ; then the Association may take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

Art. 11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

Art. 12. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which it is authorized to form and amend according to its own views.

Art. 13. This constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present ; Provided, such alteration or amendment shall have been presented at the previous annual meeting of the Association.

D. W. GWIN, Chairman.

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## E.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE "ALABAMA BAPTIST."

Whereas, a sound religious paper is a recognized agency for good in the cause of Christ, and recognizing the "Alabama Baptist" as a paper eminently sound in its teachings, calculated to promote the piety of our people, stir up our churches to greater activity in the cause of Christ, as well as draw the brotherhood of our State more closely together, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Association does most earnestly urge the membership of our churches to support our State paper and do all in their power to increase its circulation.

T. M. BAILEY, Chairman.

# F.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE

| Churches. | Pledges redeemed from last year for Associational Missions | Minutes | Domestic and Indian Missions | Foreign Missions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Centre Ridge | 25 00 | 2 50 | | |
| Town Creek | 5 00 | 2 50 | 5 30 | 12 50 |
| Bethany | | 2 00 | | 5 50 |
| Ash Creek | | 2 00 | | |
| Steep Creek | 25 00 | 3 25 | | 11 50 |
| Hayneville | 5 00 | 1 00 | | |
| Good Hope | | 1 00 | | |
| Mt. Gilead | | 1 00 | | |
| Shiloh | | 1 50 | | |
| First Montgomery | | 5 00 | | |
| Adams Street, Montgomery | | | | |
| Pleasant Hill | | 1 50 | | |
| Bethel | 20 00 | 2 75 | | |
| Unity | | 2 50 | | |
| Greenville | 5 00 | 1 50 | | |
| Rutledge | | | | |
| New Ebenezer | | | | |
| Hickory Grove | | | | |
| Macedonia | | 1 50 | | |
| Antioch | 5 75 | 1 60 | | |
| Liberty | | | | |
| Cedar Creek | | 2 00 | | |
| Philadelphia | | | | |
| Mt. Lebanon | | 3 00 | | |
| Union | 2 00 | 2 05 | | |
| Damascus | 12 00 | 1 75 | | |
| New Bethel | | 1 50 | 2 50 | |
| Hopewell | | 3 00 | 9 65 | 7 35 |
| Pine Level | 25 00 | 1 00 | | |
| Midway | | | | |
| Autaugaville | | 1 00 | | |
| Elim | | 1 75 | | |
| Lad. Benev. So., Town Creek Church | | | 5 95 | 11 65 |
| W. D. Fonville | | | | |
| Ladies Miss. So., Bethany Church | | | | 7 00 |
| Jno. P. Gafford | 5 00 | | | |
| Miss Kate Nutting | 5 00 | | | |
| Eld. E. F. Baber | 5 00 | | | |
| Eld. T. N. Coleman | 5 00 | | | |
| Lad. Miss. So., Centre Ridge Church | | | | |
| Mrs. R. C. Thomas | 5 00 | | | |
| Mrs. A. F. Childers | 5 00 | | | |
| D. R. Burt | 5 00 | | | |
| Eld. G. W. McQueen | 10 00 | | | |
| B. S. Meadows | 5 00 | | | |
| Eld. D. Lee | 25 00 | | | |
| O. W. Sherrer | 5 00 | | | |
| Mrs. E. Ellis | | | | |
| Eld. Matt. Bishop | 5 00 | | | |
| J. J. Bishop | 5 00 | | | |
| Miss L. S. Bishop | 5 00 | | | |
| M. P. Hutchinson | | | | |
| J. C. Goldsmith | | | | |
| J. S. Catts | | | | |
| Mrs. Catts | | | | |
| | 224 75 | 50 15 | 23 40 | 55 50 |

# F.

## ON FINANCE—1874.

| Ministerial Education, Howard College. | State Mission Board. | Associational Missions. | Bro. Burr's Indian Misions. | General Associational Purposes. | Bro. Buckner's Indian Miss'n. | Total..... |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | $ 27 50 |
| 5 00 | 10 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 40 30 |
| 5 00 | ..... | 2 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 14 50 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 00 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 44 75 |
| ..... | 1 10 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 10 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 50 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8 90 | ..... | 13 90 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 4 35 | 37 75 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 43 60 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 22 75 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 00 | ..... | 12 50 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 50 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 50 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 35 |
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| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 05 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13 75 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 00 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 00 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 31 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 55 | ..... | 3 55 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 75 |
| 9 15 | 2 60 | ..... | 10 70 | ..... | ..... | 40 05 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | 24 10 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 24 10 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| ..... | ..... | 1 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 00 |
| ..... | ..... | 1 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 00 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| 5 00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 00 |
| 58 50 | 75 55 | 4 00 | 10 70 | 21 45 | 5 00 | *$529 00 |

Amount of collection taken up on Saturday night for State Mission Board..... $ 36 60
" " " " " Sunday morning for Foreign Missions..... 14 85
" " " " " Home Board, Marion..... 2 00
" " " " " Monday for Ministerial Education, Howard College..... 17 00

*$509 45

Amount received since report by clerk, Mt. Lebanon Church, pledge for Ministerial Education..... 5 00
" " " " " " " balance Minute fund..... 25

Examined and found correct.

JERE JOHNSON,
Chairman of Auditing Committee.

# G.
# STATISTICAL TABLE

| | CHURCHES. | PASTORS. | CLERKS. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st. DISTRICT. | Centre Ridge | W. C. Cleveland, D. D. | J. W. Dennis |
| | Town Creek | | T. A. Hardy |
| | Bethany | | Jno. A. Caffey |
| | Sister Springs† | | Nathan Moore |
| | Pleasant Hill | W. C. Cleveland, D. D. | J. W. Smyly |
| | Cedar Creek | J. F. Bruner | Ithiel Ingram |
| | Shiloh | Jno. N. Prestridge | J. M. Lide |
| 2nd. DISTRICT. | Hopewell | David Lee | J. H. Robertson |
| | Ash Creek | David Lee | A. K. Gordon |
| | Hayneville | E. F. Baber | A. Varner |
| | Steep Creek | G. W. McQueen | U. G. R. Powell |
| | Bethel | Matt. Bishop | R. M. Burt |
| | Good Hope | J. L. Taylor | J. C. Abbott |
| | Mt. Gilead | G. W. McQueen | H. Walker Edwards |
| | Benton† | | Jno. C. Hill |
| | Lowndesboro'† | | P. N. Cilley |
| | New Bethel | B. J. Skinner | J. W. Strickland |
| 3rd. DISTRICT. | Autaugaville | G. W. McQueen | O. W. Sherrer |
| | First Montgomery | D. W. Gwin, D. D. | J. R. Adams |
| | Adams Street, Montgomery | Jeff. Falkner | J. M. Falkner |
| | Liberty† | J. W. Orme | Geo. W. Crossgrove |
| | Union | W. C. Avant | Jno. A. Stringer |
| | Mt. Lebanon | B. A. Jackson | Wm. Niblet |
| | Pine Level | J. S. Yarbrough | Jno. A. Frazer |
| | Midway† | Thos. J. Miles | W. E. O'Neal |
| | Unity | H. C. Taul | Jas. H. Booth |
| | Elim | G. W. McQueen | Moses McLemore |
| 4th. DISTRICT. | Greenville | B. H. Crumpton | Jas. A. Harris |
| | Philadelphia† | M. Bishop | H. F. Hinds |
| | Antioch | Benj. F. Cooper | Jno. P. Gafford |
| | Damascus | W. C. Avant | S. F. Andress |
| | Hickory Grove† | B. A. Jackson | Asa Dean |
| | Macedonia | Matt. Bishop | H. S. Graydon |
| | New Ebenezer† | W. C. Avant | Jeff. Cook |

The clerks of the churches will greatly oblige by following the order of the above table as far as practicable.

†Marks thus not having sent letters, the clerk has filled the blank with numbers heretofore reported.

G.

# OF THE CHURCHES—1875.

| POST-OFFICE. | County | Baptised | Received by Letter | Restored | Dismissed by Letter | Deceased | Excluded | Number of White Members | Increase | Decrease | Ladies Be'vel't Soc't's. | Prayer Meetings | Young Men's Prayer Meetings. | Sabbath Schools | Teachers | Scholars | Teacher's Meetings | Sabbath Meetings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richmond | D | 1 | 1 | | 7 | 2 | | 81 | | 7 | 1 | w. | w. | E. S. | 6 | 70 | | 2nd |
| Benton | L | | | | 7 | | | 65 | | 7 | 1 | w. | | E. S. | 7 | 50 | | |
| Benton | L | | | | 2 | 1 | | 36 | | 3 | 1 | w. | | E. S. | 6 | 43 | | |
| Benton | L | | | | | | | 187 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pleasant Hill | D | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 4 | | 65 | | 2 | 1 | w. | | E. S. | 5 | 25 | | 4th |
| Farmersville | L | 11 | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 46 | 11 | | | | | | | | | 2nd |
| Selma | D | | | | 1 | | | 26 | | 1 | | | | § | | 20 | | 3rd |
| Mt. Willing | L | 3 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 88 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1&3 |
| Benton | L | 4 | | | *33 | 1 | | 35 | | *32 | | w. | | E. S. | 3 | 21 | | 2nd |
| Hayneville | L | | 1 | | | | 1 | 36 | | | | | | E. S. | 5 | 30 | | 1st |
| Hayneville | L | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 56 | | 5 | | ‡ | | E. S. | 6 | 25 | | 1&3 |
| Fort Deposit | L | 17 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 172 | 18 | | | w. | w. | E. S. | 5 | | w | 1st |
| Greenville | B | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 20 | 10 | | | | | E. S. | | | | 2nd |
| Benton | L | | | | | | | 17 | | | | | | | | | | 4th |
| Benton | L | | | | | | | 70 | | | | | | | | | | 3rd |
| Lowndesboro' | L | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bragg's Store | L | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | 40 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 3rd |
| Autaugaville | A | | 2 | | 2 | | | 15 | | | | | | | | | | 2nd |
| Montgomery | M | 32 | 5 | | 11 | 1 | | 301 | | 25 | 1 | 2 | 1 | E. S. | 24 | 247 | | E. S. |
| Montgomery | M | | | | 3 | 5 | | 62 | | 8 | | 1 | | E. S. | 4 | 40 | | E. S. |
| Pine Level | M | | | | | | | 49 | | | | 1 | | E. S. | 5 | 30 | | 1st |
| Honoroville | C | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | | | 60 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 4th |
| Ramer | | 1 | | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 77 | | 9 | | | | | 3 | 20 | | |
| Pine Level | M | 3 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 1 | | 87 | | 5 | | | | | | | | 4th |
| Pine Level | M | | | | | | | 33 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prattville | A | 1 | 3 | | 8 | | | 49 | | 4 | | | | E. S. | 8 | 40 | | 4th |
| Montgomery | A | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | 15 | 1 | | | | | E. S. | 3 | 15 | | 3rd |
| Greenville | B | | | | 4 | | | 122 | | 4 | | | | | 14 | 150 | | 234 |
| Argus | M | | | | | | | 35 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greenville | B | | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | 80 | | | | | | | | | | 1st |
| Greenville | B | 1 | 4 | | 8 | 2 | | 84 | | 5 | | | | M. | | | | 3 |
| Letohatchie | L | | | | | | | 45 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fort Deposit | L | | | | 1 | | | 24 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Saville | C | | | | | | | 61 | | 61 | | | | | | | | |
| Total. | | 93 | 50 | 11 | 129 | 29 | 13 | 2243 | 52 | 118 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 104 | 826 | 2 | |

*Thirty-three colored members are included in the number dismissed from Ash Creek Church.

‡Twice a week.

§Twice a month.

## H.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES AND DOCUMENTS.

23 churches reported by letter and delegates ; 2 by letter only ; 10 have had gracious revivals ; 3 are on the decline ; 2 have no paster this year and but little preaching, they are sheep without an under shepherd ; 13 churches have nothing of special interest to report.

There are 15 Sunday schools mentioned ; 2 teachers' meeting ; 13 prayer meetings ; 5 ladies' benevolent associations ; 11 churches have sent contributions for missions and other objects of benevolence.

Damascus mourns the loss of a beloved Deacon by death, H. S. Staggers ; and the Antioch church has lost one of her deacons, N. Z. Stuckey ; both of whom died in the triumphs of a living faith.

There have been received by baptism during the year 93; excluded 13; died 27 ; total 30 ; clear gain 66 ; whole number reported 1759.

12 churches send nothing for any cause of benevolence.

After summing up all that is in the letters, we find but little to encourage. There appears to be a spiritual barrenness in many churches. The Body does not compare even favorably with itself last year. What is the matter? Is it the financial condition of the people that has dried up so many streams of benevolence?

M. BISHOP, Chairman.

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## I.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

There are 15 churches that report Sunday schools, in which there are 99 teachers, 796 scholars ; 1 teachers' meeting and 2 teachers' prayer meeting. With one exception they all meet every Sunday. Two other schools reported to us through delegation ; no statistics.

From information given us by the brethren of the various churches represented here, we are of the opinion that the interest in Sunday schools is not as great as formerly. No reason is assigned for this want of interest in the Sunday schools, but we feel that it is cause for sadness. We think the faithful discharge of duty by each church in the Sunday school, is of the highest importance to the welfare of the churches.

D. B. EDWARDS,
G. W. McQUEEN, } Committee.
H. W. CAFFEY,

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## K.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

SAMUEL W. LIDE, *Treasurer, in account with the Alabama Baptist Association :*

DR.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1874–5. | To cash for Minutes | $ 70 30 | | |
| | " Domestic and Indian Missions | 82 70 | | |
| | " Foreign Missions | 26 55 | | |
| | " Associational Missions | 106 85 | | |
| | " Associat'l Missions—redeemed pledges | 317 00 | | |
| | " State Sunday School Board | 1 00 | | |
| | " Associat'l Missions—Sabbath collection | 21 55 | | |
| | " from Samuel W. Lide, to balance | 4 60 | — | 630 55 |

CR.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| By cash paid clerk for Minutes | $ 70 30 | | | |
| " " Dr. Sumner for Dom. and Ind'n Missions | 79 70 | | | |
| " " " " Foreign Missions | 26 55 | | | |
| " " Dr. Renfroe for State S. S. Board | 1 00 | | | |
| " " B. B. Davis for Associational Missions | 39 50 | | | |
| " " Elder T. M. Bailey for Ass't'l Missions | 413 50 | — | 630 55 | |

Examined and found correct.

JERE JOHNSON, Ch'm'n Aud. Com.

# DECLARATION OF FAITH OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I.—*Of the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men Divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction [*a*]; that it has God for its author [*b*], salvation for its end [*c*], and truth without any mixture of error for its matter [*d*]; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us [*e*], and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union [*f*], and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried [*g*].

(*a*) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works—2 Tim. iii, 16, 17. (*b*) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost—2 Peter i, 21. (*c*) These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing, ye might have life through his name—John xx, 31. (*d*) For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works *are done* in truth—Psalm xxxiii, 4. (*e*) God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel—Rom. ii, 10. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works—Rev. xx, 12. (*f*) Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let them be accursed—Gal. i, 9. (*g*) If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed—Gal. i, 10.]

ART. II.—*Of the True God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God [*a*], whose name is JEHOVAH [*b*], the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth [*c*], inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love [*d*], revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every Divine perfection [*e*], and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption [*f*].

(*a*) God is one—Gal. iii, 20. (*b*) That *men* may know that thou, whose name is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth—Psalm lxxxiii, 18. (*c*) For by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible—Col. i, 16. (*d*) Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders—Ex. xv, 11. (*e*) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one—1 John v, 7. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily—Col. ii, 9. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God—Phil. ii, 6. (*f*) God sent his Son into the world, that the world through him might be saved—John iii, 17. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures—Cor. xv, 3. And was raised again for our justification—Rom. iv, 25. He ever liveth to make intercession for them—Heb. vii, 25. It is the Spirit that quickeneth—John vi, 63.

ART. III.—*Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker [*a*], but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice [*b*], being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification

of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions [*c*] ; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence and excuse [*d*].

(*a*) So God created man in his own image—Gen. i, 27. God made man upright—Ec. vii, 29. (*b*) In Adam all die—1 Cor. xv, 22. There is none righteous, no, not one—Rom. iii, 10. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do—John viii. 44. (*c*) He that believeth not is condemned already ; because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God—John iii, 18. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction—2 Thes. i, 8. (*d*) And he was speechless—Mat. xxii, 12. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the World are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead ; so that they are without excuse—Rom. i, 20.

Art. IV.—*Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace [*a*], through the mediatorial office of the Son of God [*b*] who took on him our nature, yet without sin [*c*] ; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death [*d*] ; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven [*e*] ; and uniting in his wonderful person, the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour [*f*].

(*a*) For by grace ye are saved, through faith ; and that not of yourselves, it *is* the gift of God—Eph. ii, 8. (*b*) For *there* is one God and *one* Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus—1 Tim. ii, 5. (*c*) For as much as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also took part of the same—Heb. ii, 14. And in him is no sin—1 John iii, 5. (*d*) The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake ; he will magnify the law and make it honorable—Isa. xlii, 21. We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son—Rom. v, 10. (*e*) But, we see Jesus—crowned with glory and honor—Heb. ii, 9. (*f*) For we have an High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities—Heb. iv, 15. For in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily—Col. ii, 9.

Art. V.—*Of Justification.*—That the great gospel blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is Justification [*a*], that Justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness [*b*] ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness [*c*] ; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity [*d*].

(*a*) Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ—Rom. v, 1. (*b*) Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins—Acts x, 30. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life—John iii, 36. Whom God hath set forth to *be* a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God—Rom. iii, 25. (*c*) Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost—Titus iii, 5. (*d*) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things—Rom. viii, 32.

Art. VI.—*Of the Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel [*a*] ; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith [*b*] ; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ [*c*] ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation [*d*].

(*a*) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth ; for I am God, and *there is* none else—Isa. xlv, 22. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely—Rev. xxii, 17. (*b*) Now he commandeth all men everywhere to re-

pent—Acts xvii, 30. (*c*) Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life—John v, 40. (*d*) It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee—Mat. xi, 24.

ART. VII.—*Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again [*a*]; that Regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel [*b*]; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God [c].

(*a*) Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God—Jno. iii, 3. (*b*) And be renewed in the spirit of our mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness—Eph. iv, 23, 24. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound th reof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit—John iii, 3. Every one that loveth, is born of God, and knoweth God—1 John iv, 7. If a man love me, he will keep my words—John xiv, 23. (*c*) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them—Eph. ii, 10. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not—1 John v, 18.

ART. VIII.—*Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners [*a*]; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end [*b*]; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy [*c*]; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree [*d*]; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel [*e*]; is the foundation of Christian assurance [*f*]; and that, to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence [*g*].

(*a*) God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth—2 Thes. ii, 13. (*b*) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory—2 Tim. ii, 10. (*c*) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love—Eph. i, 4. (*d*) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory—2 Tim. ii, 10. (*e*) And they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful—Rev. xvii, 14. (*f*) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?—Rom. viii, 33, 34. (*g*) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure.—2 Peter i, 10.

ART. IX.—*Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end [*a*]; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors [*b*]; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation [*c*].

(*a*) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil—1 John iii, 9, 10. (*b*) They went out from us, but they were not of us—2 John ii, 19. (*c*) God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it—1 Cor. x, 13. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time—1 Peter i, 5.

ART. X.—*Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government [*a*]; that it is holy,

just, and good [*b*]; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace, connected with the establishment of the visible Church [*c*].

(*a*) Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled—Mat. v, 18. (*b*) Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good—Rom. vi, 12. (*c*) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit—Rom. viii, 4. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law—Rom. iii, 31.

Art. XI.—*Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; [*a*] governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word [*b*]; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties, are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus [*c*].

(*a*) Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints—Rom. i, 7. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death—Rom. vi, 4. Paul, an apostle unto the Churches of Galatia—Gal. i, 1, 2. For ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Jesus Christ, have put on Christ—Gal. iii, 26, 27. (*b*) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord—1 Cor. xiii, 4, 5. (*c*) A Bishop, then must be blameless—1 Tim. iii, 1, 7. Likewise must the Deacons be grave—1 Tim. iii, 8, 9, 10; see also Titus i. 7, 8, 9. Let the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine; and the laborer is worthy of his reward. Against an Elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses—1 Tim. 17, 18, 19.

Art. XII. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit [*a*]; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our *faith* in a crucified and risen Saviour, with its purifying power [*d*]; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation, and to the Lord's Supper [*c*]; in which the members of the Church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination [*d*].

(*a*) See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest; and he said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him—Acts viii, 36, 37, 38. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost—Mat. xxviii, 19. (*b*) Buried with him, in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him, through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead—Col. ii, 12. (*c*) Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God—John iii, 5. Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples—Matt. xxvi, 26. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread—Acts xx, 7. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come—1 Cor. xi, 26. (*d*) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup—verse 28.

Art. XIII. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath [*a*]; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations [*b*]; by

the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public [*c*]; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God [*d*].

(*a*) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day—Rev. i, 10. (*b*) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy—Ex. xx, 8. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it—verse 11. (*c*) Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow—Acts xx, 7. (*d*) There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God—Heb. iv, 9. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest—verse 11.

ART. XIV. *Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society [*a*]; and that magistrates are to be prayed for [*b*], conscientiously honored and obeyed [*c*], except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ [*d*], who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the kings of the earth [*e*].

(*a*) For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God—Rom. xiii, 1. For he is the minister of God to thee for good—verse 4. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil—verse 3. (*b*) I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority—1 Tim. i, 1, 2. (*c*) Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake—Rom. xiii, 5. (*d*) We ought to obey God rather than men —Acts v, 29. (*e*) Christ is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, the Lord of lords—1 Tim. vi, 15.

ART. XV. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked [*a*]; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem [*b*], while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief, are in his sight wicked, and under the curse [*c*]; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death [*d*].

(*a*) He that is not with me is against me—Luke xi, 23. Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his—Rom. viii, 9. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness, is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother—1 John iii, 10. (*b*) To declare, I say, at this time, his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus—Rom. iii, 26. But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God—1 Cor vi, 11. (*c*) Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish—Luke xiii, 3. He that believeth not is condemned already—John iii, 18. (*d*) He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still—Rev. xxii, 11.

ART. XVI. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching (*a*); that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution(*b*); that a solemn separation will then take place (*c*); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy (*d*); and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness (*e*).

(*a*) But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer—1 Peter iv, 7. (*b*) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first—1 Thes. iv, 16. All that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of damnation—John v, 28, 29 (*c*) And before him shall be gathered together all nations; and he shall separate them one from another,

as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats—Mat. xxv, 32. (*d*) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal—Mat. xxv, 32. (*e*) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to his works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death—Rev. xx, 13, 14. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?—Gen. xviii, 25.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Alabama Baptist Association.

Art 2. This Association shall be composed of Representatives from the Churches in union. Each Church shall be entitled to three Delegates, and for every additional hundred members, above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional Delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the Delegates from any Church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by Churches, and in that event each Church shall be entitled to three votes.

Art. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and a Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen. Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have power to call a meeting at any time or place, which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

Art. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies, in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority, except what is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members, the Delegates of the Churches; and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown all Churches, that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches, united under the Constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel and other means in accordance with that gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

Art. 5. Newly constituted Churches, or Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up their Delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition; and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

Art. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, and all other information which the Churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Art. 7. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches, and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for

insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

Art. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

Art. 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between Churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

Art. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

Art. 11. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

Art. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; Provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the Churches.

## RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. At every annual meeting of this Associotion, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the Chair every day, at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members; on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion shall say no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question, provided he call some other member to occupy the Chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates; minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, account for and pay out all moneys belonging to this body, according to the instructions of the Association, and perform snch other duties as the Association may direct.

### DECORUM IN DEBATE.

10. When any member is about to speak, or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat, and shall respectfully address the

Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

11. If any member in speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order ; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain ; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to ; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed ; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.

13. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending ; in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debated.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely—which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged ; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall be always in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form : "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present ; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any ; upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

23. No motion, or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

# APPENDIX J.

Your Committee would respectfully report the Order of Business:

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Recess.
4. Organization.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Correspondence.
7. Appoint Committees.
8. Report of the Executive Board.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Treasurer's Report.
11. Appoint time and place of meeting.
12. Miscellaneous Business.

D. Lee, Chairman.

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## BAPTIST MINISTERS LIVING, OR SERVING CHURCHES, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

W. C. Cleveland, D. D., Minter's Station, S. & G. R. R., Dallas county.
T. M. Bailey, Pleasant Hill, Dallas county.
David Lee, Mt. Willing, Lowndes county.
J. E. Bell, Greenville, Butler county.
Matt Bishop, Fort Deposit, Lowndes county.
Geo. W. McQueen, Hayneville, Lowndes county.
D. W. Gwin, D. D., Montgomery.
Jefferson Falkner, Montgomery.
J. F. Bruner, Parmersville, Lowndes county.
J. W. Orme, Ramah, Montgomery county.
W. C. Avant, Greenville, Butler county.
J. J. Miles, Pine Level, Montgomery county.
B. H. Crumpton, Greenville, Butler county.
E. F. Baber, Greenville, Butler county.
H. Clay Taul, Wetumpka, Elmore county.
W. J. Kierce, Greenville, Butler county.
J. L. Taylor, Greenville, Butler county.
Benj. F Cooper, Greenville, Butler county.
B. J. Skinner, Pine Apple, Wilcox county.
J. S. Yarbrough, Orion, Pike county.

We are needing, to perfect a FILE of the Minutes of the Association, for its use, the Minutes from 1819 to 1830, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1841 and 1844, and would be greatly obliged for the loan of them that they may be copied. Please mail or send to

B. B. DAVIS, Clerk,
P. O. Box 350, Montgomery, Ala.